

1734



PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

4
[signature]
4-2-02

application of:)
)
 Balmer et al.)
)
 Serial No.: 09/977,170)
)
 Filed: October 12, 2001)
)
 For: JASPE PATTERN FLOORING AND)
 WELDING ROD)
)

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
 Group Art Unit: 1734
 Docket No.: A148 1550

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
MAR 20 2002
TC 1700

Sir:

Applicants hereby voluntarily disclose the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents. Copies of items A-C are enclosed herewith.

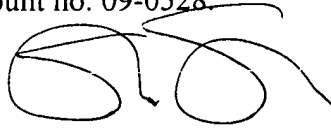
Applicants further reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the listed information should they be applied as references, and/or to prove that some of the cited information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that some of the cited information may not be enabling for the teachings they purport to offer. This statement further should not be construed as a representation that an exhaustive search has been made, or that the information cited herewith is material, or that there does not exist information more material to the examination of the present Application. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the information submitted herein. On the contrary, the Examiner is requested to conduct an

independent and thorough review of the information, and to form independent opinions as to their significance.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return copies of the enclosed PTO-1449 and to indicate in the official file wrapper of the above-identified patent application that each item of the cited information has been considered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to account no. 09-0528

Date: 3/7/02



Steven L. Schmid
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,358

RECEIVED
MAR 20 2002
TC 1700

Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC
P.O. Box 7037
Atlanta, GA 30357-0037
(404) 962-7539 (Telephone)
(404) 870-8234 (Facsimile)

Docket No.: A148 1550

Certificate of Mailing
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:
March 7, 2002
Cheryl West

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED



Form PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Attorney Docket No.
A148 1550

Serial No.
09/977,170

Applicant
Balmer et al.

Filing Date
October 12, 2001

Group
1734

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Item	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A	5,635,266	6/3/97	Quinn et al.	428	57	
	B	5,712,032	1/27/98	Balmer et al.	428	364	
	C	5,955,173	9/21/99	Balmer et al.	428	142	
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	H						
	I						
	J						
	K						

RECEIVED
MAR 20 2002
TC 1700

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	L	
	M	
	N	

* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

EXAMINER'S SIGNATURE:

DATE CONSIDERED: